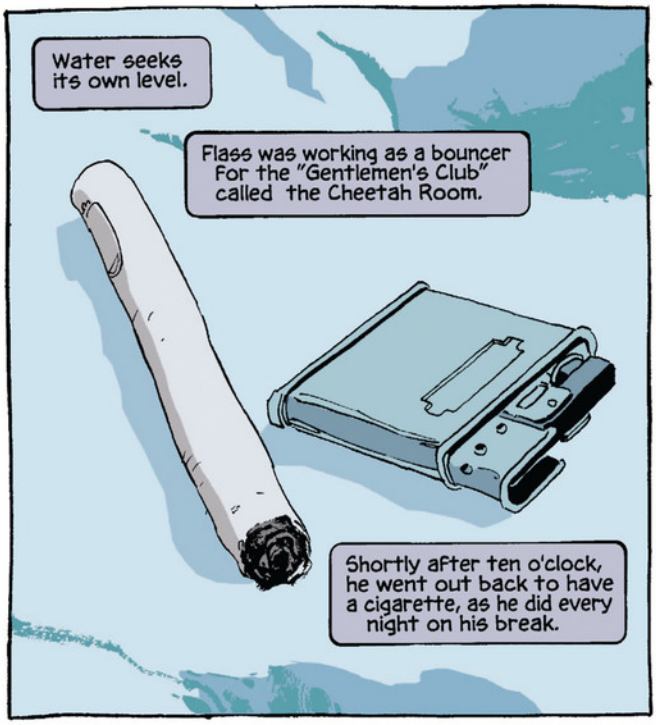
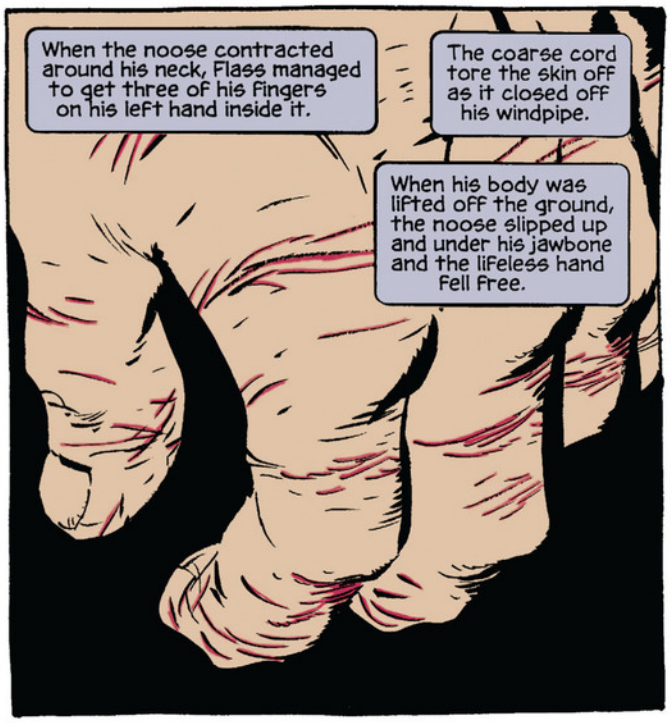
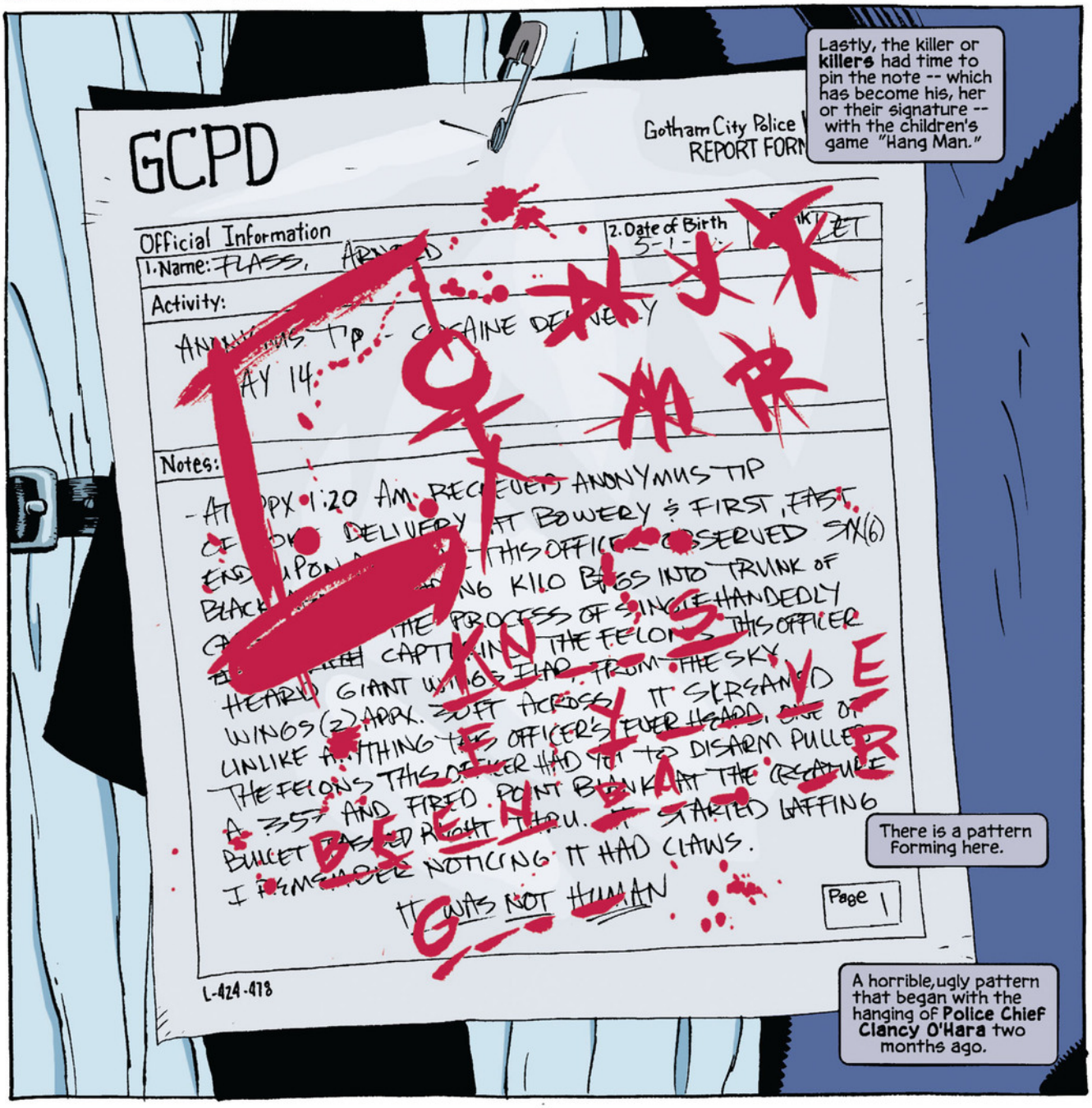
CHAPTER THREE **TOYS**

His name was Flass.
Detective Arnold Flass. A corrupt, venal man who wore a Gotham City Policeman's badge.
He once told Jim Gordon, "Cops got it made in Gotham."
He said it for all the wrong reasons. A dirty cop who took dirty money and shook down anyone who didn't pay up.
To keep from going to prison, he cut a deal with then District Attorney **Harvey Dent** to testify against other corrupt City Officials.
Among them, Former Police Commissioner Gillian Loeb who was **also** found hanged, in the same manner last month.
TS 99.

Cheetah Room
I DIDN'T SEE NOTHIN'.
EXIT
STAGE DOOR
The Mighty Clouds of
JOY
NOW APPEARING
FEBRUARY
WOW!
POLICE
728-GII
POLICE LINE


Water seeks its own level.
Flass was working as a bouncer for the "Gentlemen's Club" called the Cheetah Room.
Shortly after ten o'clock, he went out back to have a cigarette, as he did every night on his break.


When the noose contracted around his neck, Flass managed to get three of his fingers on his left hand inside it.
The coarse cord tore the skin off as it closed off his windpipe.
When his body was lifted off the ground, the noose slipped up and under his jawbone and the lifeless hand fell free.


Lastly, the killer or **killers** had time to pin the note -- which has become his, her or their signature -- with the children's game "Hang Man."
GCPD
Gotham City Police
REPORT FORM
Official Information
1. Name: FLASS,
2. Date of Birth
Activity:
Notes:
Page 1
L-424-478
There is a pattern forming here.
A horrible, ugly pattern that began with the hanging of **Police Chief Clancy O'Hara** two months ago.

The men and women who put their lives on the line for the Gotham City Police Department have a code of honor.

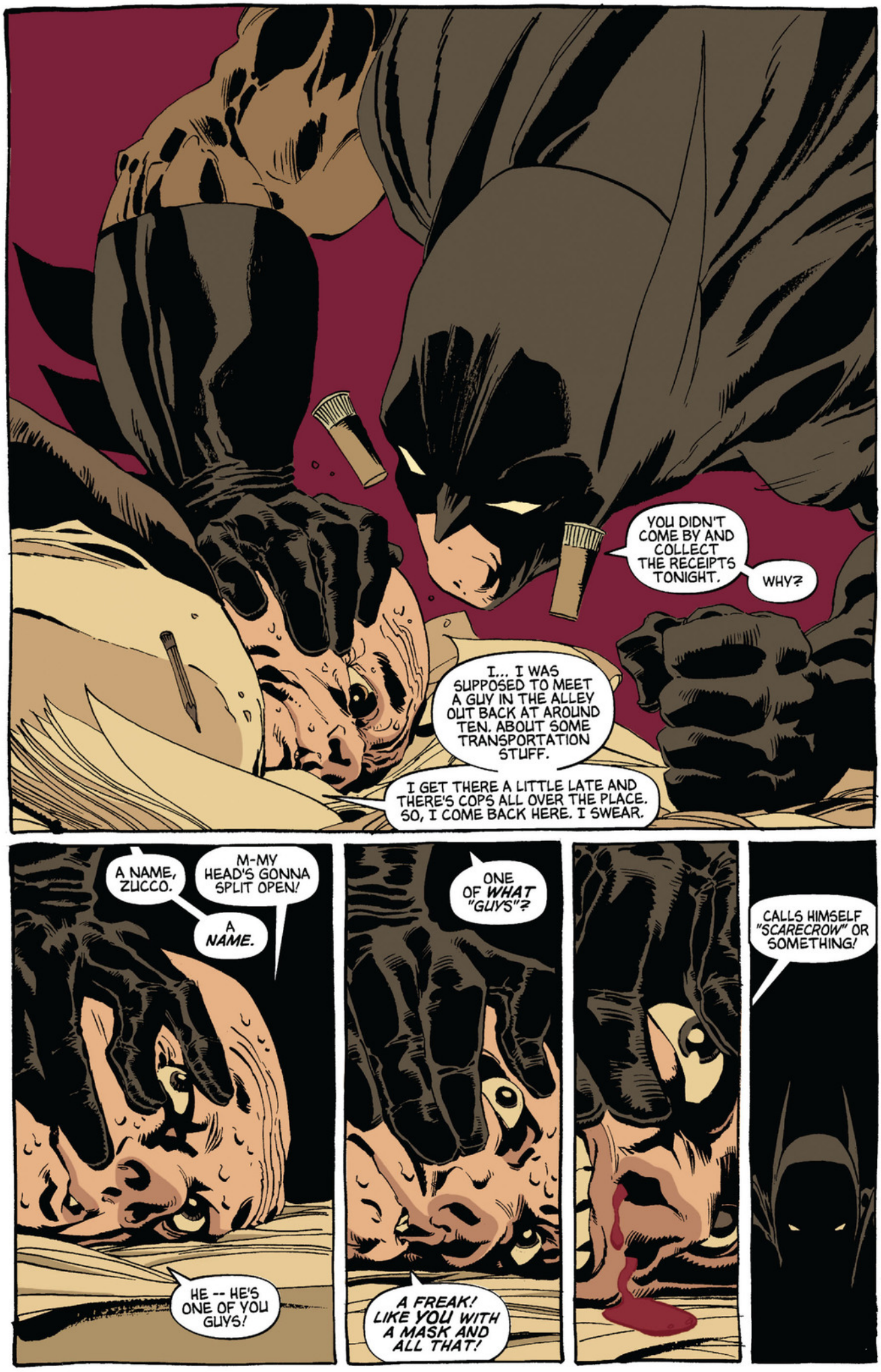
They are a family of sorts and as such will do anything to protect their own.

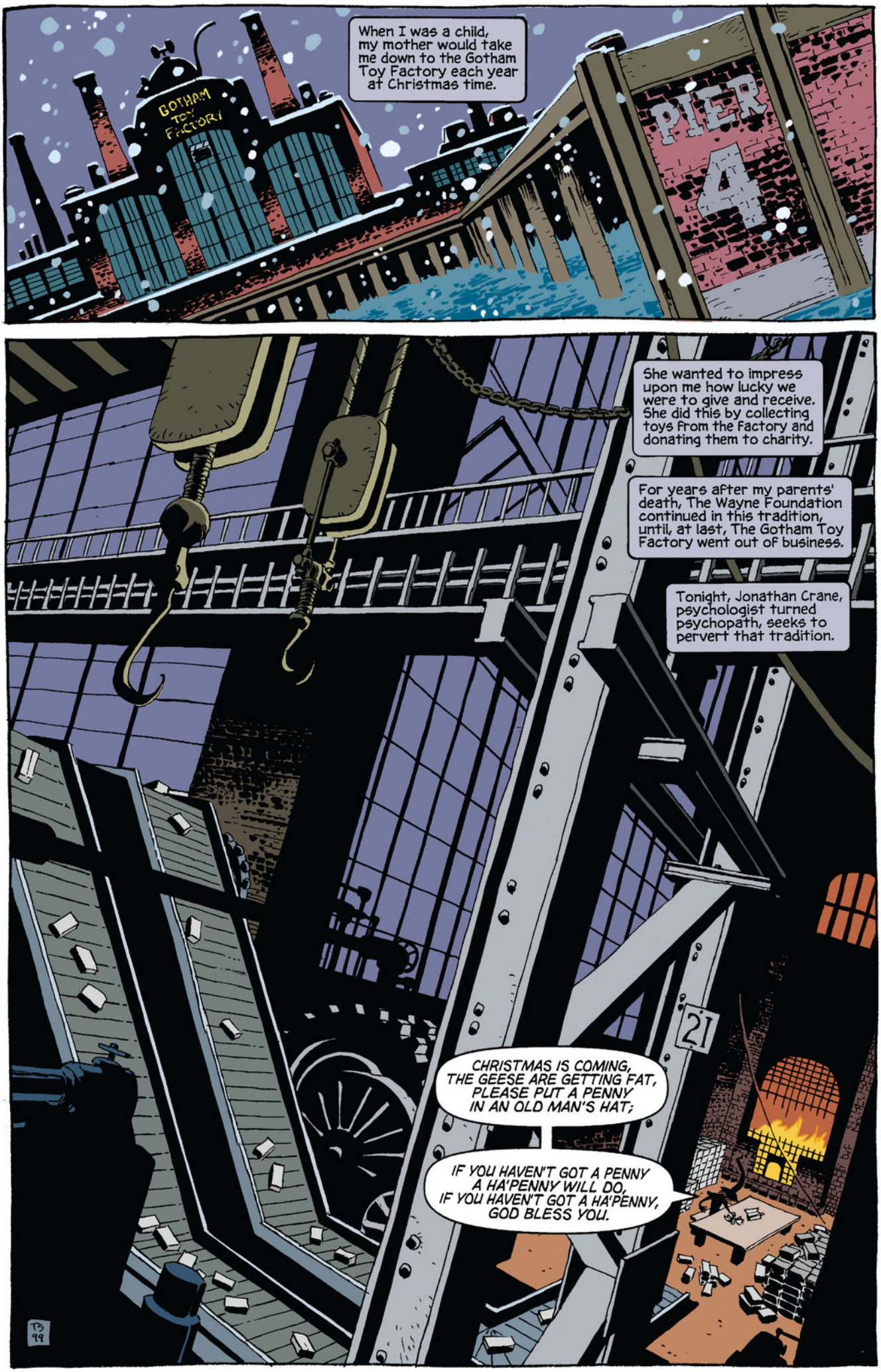
No one knows that better than Police Commissioner Jim Gordon.

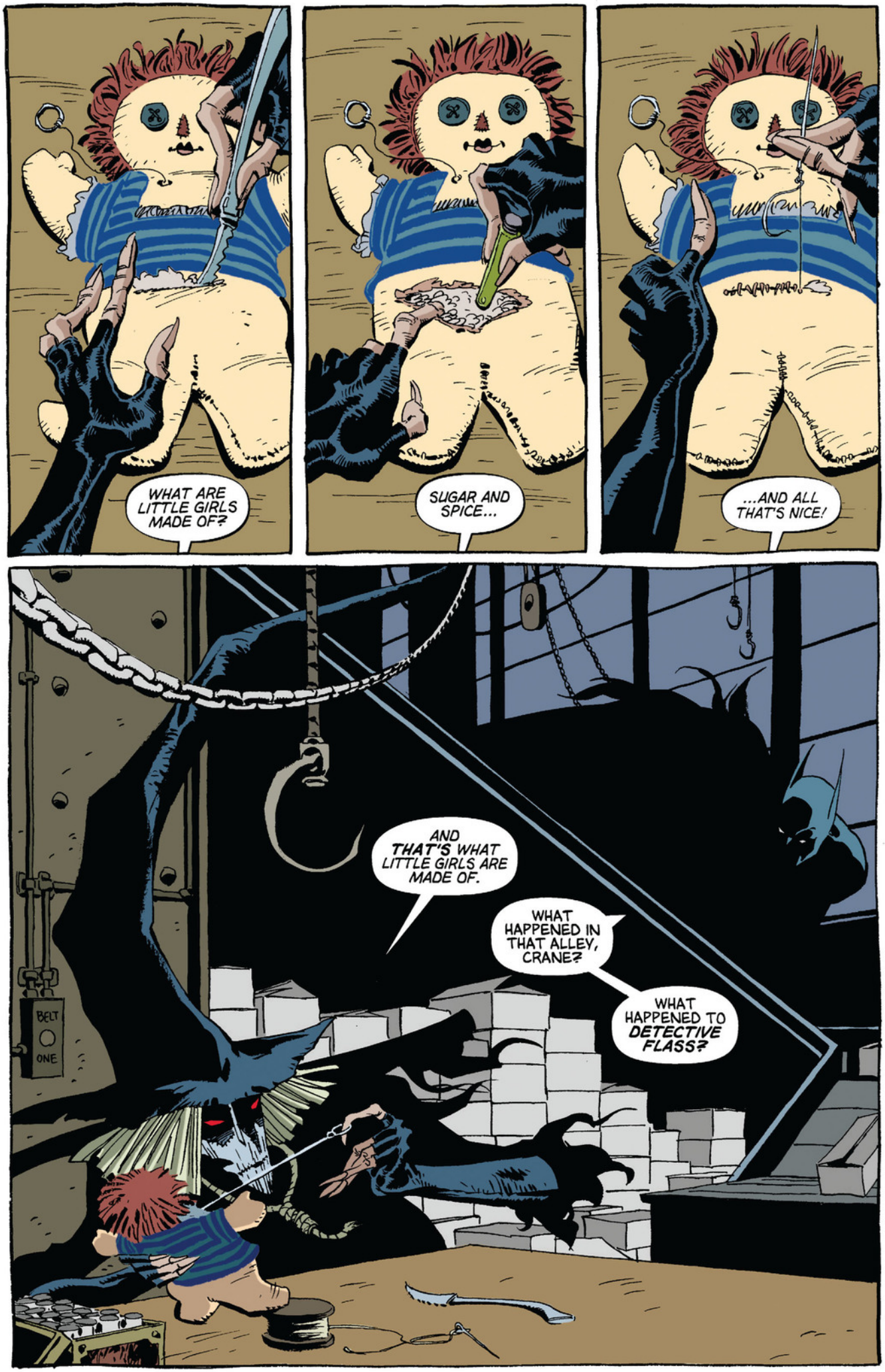
And while I appreciate his allegiance to the Department --

The Cheetah Room is a Maroni operation.
The liquor license was grandfathered in and as long as the customers keep their hands to themselves, Gotham Vice leaves it alone.
ACE TRUCKING
YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM.
NO KIDDIN'. NOBODY WANTS TO WORK CHRISTMAS OR --
-- HEY! HOW'D YOU GET IN HERE? WHERE THE HELL IS DUTCH AND EEL?
YOU LOOK AFTER THE CHEETAH ROOM FOR THE MARONI FAMILY, ZUCCO.
HAVING A COP, EVEN AN EX-COP, TURN UP DEAD ON THEIR DOORSTEP MEANS YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM.

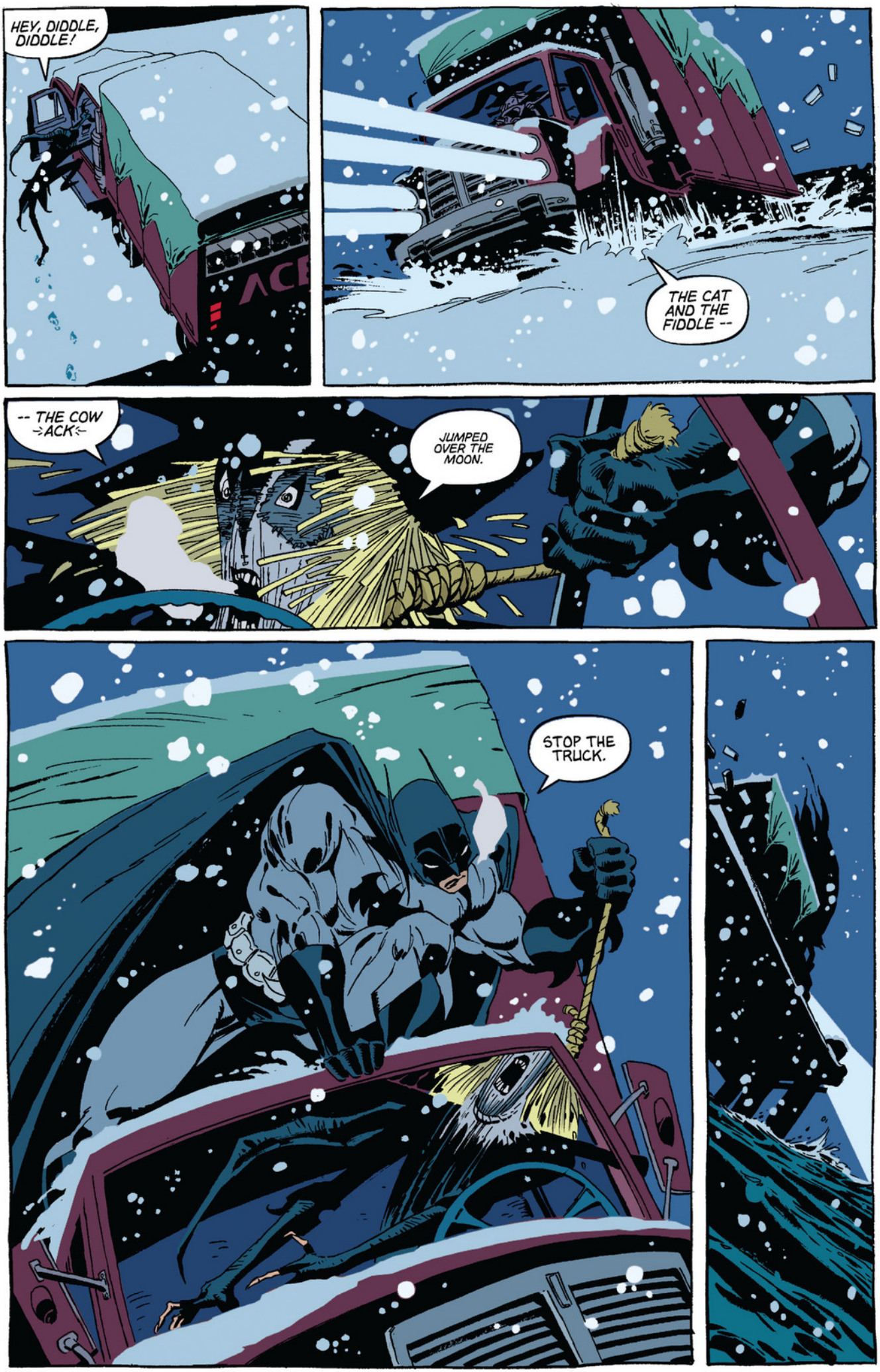
I DIDN'T HAVE NOTHIN' TO DO WITH THAT, I SWEAR.
TELL ME WHO DID.
12 GAU
YOU'LL NEED THESE.
NOW.
YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM WITH ME.

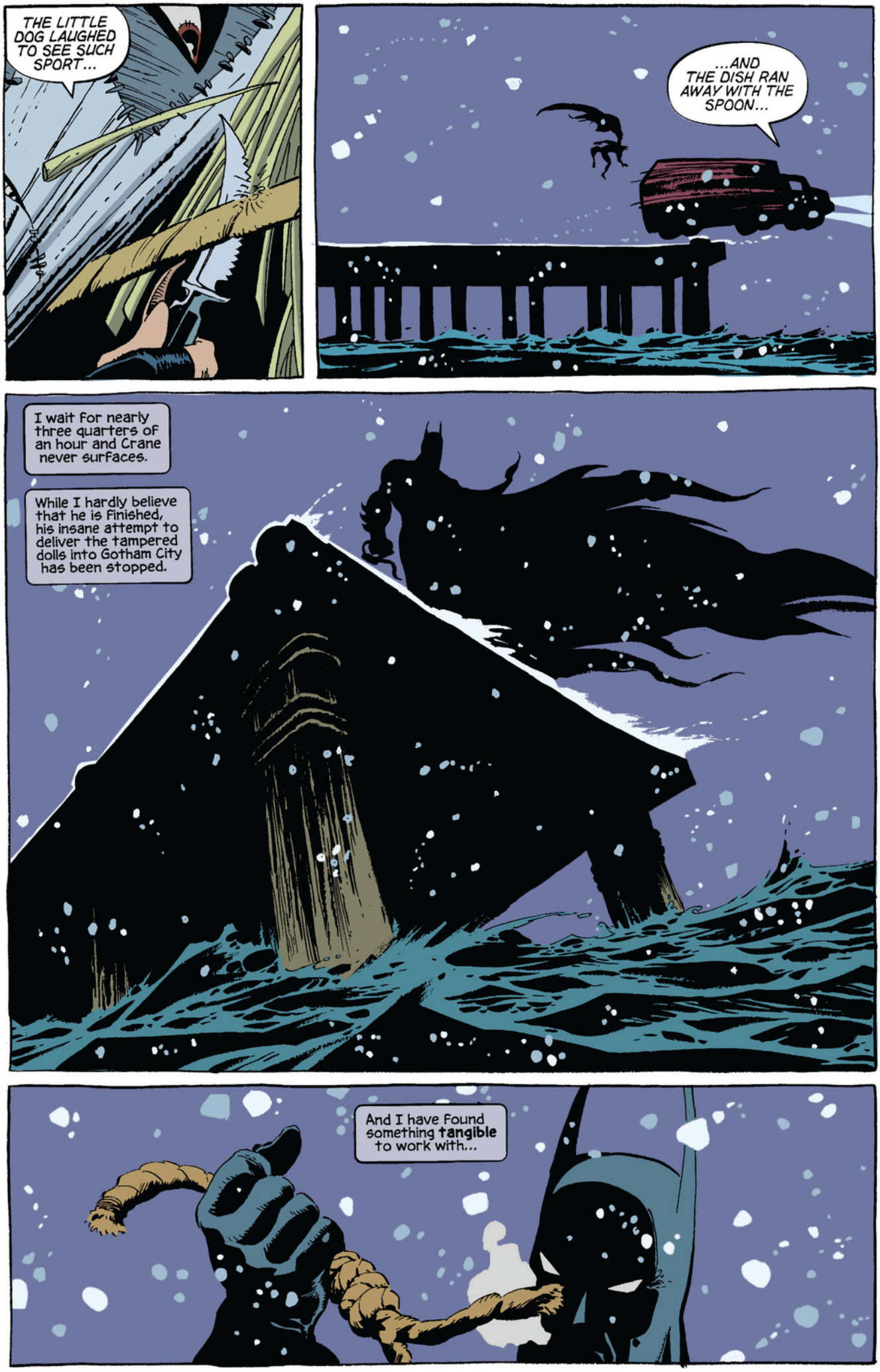

YOU DIDN'T COME BY AND COLLECT THE RECEIPTS TONIGHT.
WHY?
I... I WAS SUPPOSED TO MEET A GUY IN THE ALLEY OUT BACK AT AROUND TEN. ABOUT SOME TRANSPORTATION STUFF.
I GET THERE A LITTLE LATE AND THERE'S COPS ALL OVER THE PLACE. SO, I COME BACK HERE. I SWEAR.
A NAME, ZUCCO.
M-MY HEAD'S GONNA SPLIT OPEN!
A NAME.
HE -- HE'S ONE OF YOU GUYS!
ONE OF WHAT "GUYS"?
A FREAK! LIKE YOU WITH A MASK AND ALL THAT!
CALLS HIMSELF "SCARECROW" OR SOMETHING!

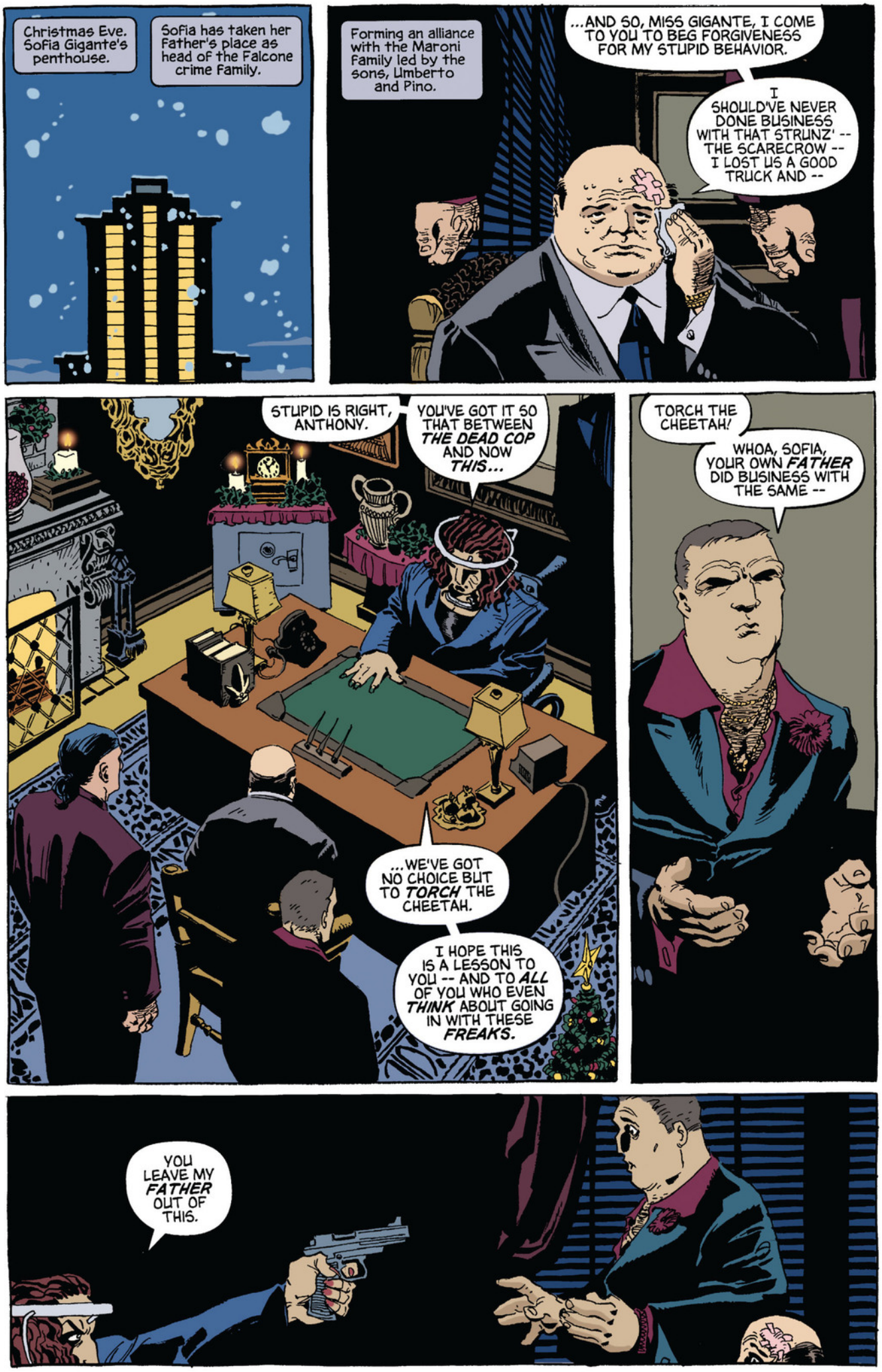

When I was a child, my mother would take me down to the Gotham Toy Factory each year at Christmas time.
GOTHAM TOY FACTORY
PIER 4
She wanted to impress upon me how lucky we were to give and receive. She did this by collecting toys from the Factory and donating them to charity.
For years after my parents' death, The Wayne Foundation continued in this tradition, until, at last, The Gotham Toy Factory went out of business.
Tonight, Jonathan Crane, psychologist turned psychopath, seeks to pervert that tradition.
21
CHRISTMAS IS COMING, THE GEESE ARE GETTING FAT, PLEASE PUT A PENNY IN AN OLD MAN'S HAT;
IF YOU HAVEN'T GOT A PENNY A HA'PENNY WILL DO, IF YOU HAVEN'T GOT A HA'PENNY, GOD BLESS YOU.
TB 99


WHAT ARE LITTLE GIRLS MADE OF?
SUGAR AND SPICE...
...AND ALL THAT'S NICE!
AND THAT'S WHAT LITTLE GIRLS ARE MADE OF.
WHAT HAPPENED IN THAT ALLEY, CRANE?
WHAT HAPPENED TO DETECTIVE FLASS?
BELT
ONE

WHAT ARE LITTLE BOYS MADE OF?
MY NAME IS TALKING TAMMY AND --
SNAKES AND SNAILS...
...AND PUPPY DOG TAILS!
AND THAT'S WHAT LITTLE BOYS ARE MADE OF.


HEY, DIDDLE, DIDDLE!
THE CAT AND THE FIDDLE --
-- THE COW ->ACK<-
JUMPED OVER THE MOON.
STOP THE TRUCK.


THE LITTLE DOG LAUGHED TO SEE SUCH SPORT...
...AND THE DISH RAN AWAY WITH THE SPOON...
I wait for nearly three quarters of an hour and Crane never surfaces.
While I hardly believe that he is finished, his insane attempt to deliver the tampered dolls into Gotham City has been stopped.
And I have found something **tangible** to work with...

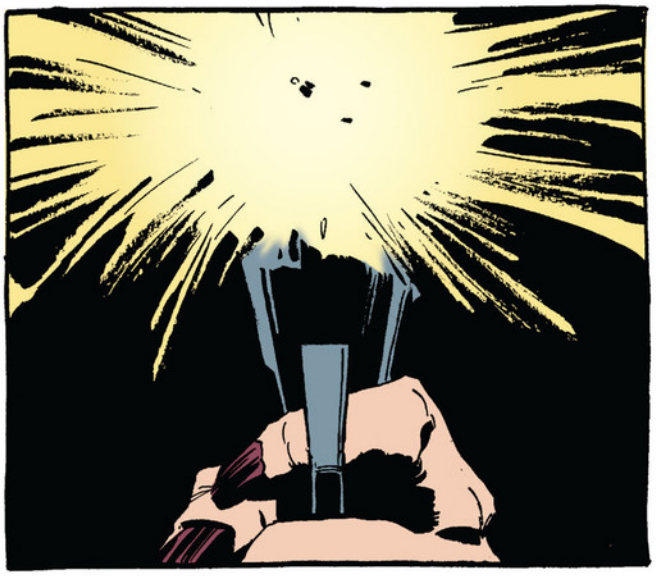

Christmas Eve. Sofia Gigante's penthouse.
Sofia has taken her father's place as head of the Falcone crime family.
Forming an alliance with the Maroni family led by the sons, Umberto and Pino.
...AND SO, MISS GIGANTE, I COME TO YOU TO BEG FORGIVENESS FOR MY STUPID BEHAVIOR.
I SHOULD'VE NEVER DONE BUSINESS WITH THAT STRUNZ' -- THE SCARECROW -- I LOST US A GOOD TRUCK AND --
STUPID IS RIGHT, ANTHONY.
YOU'VE GOT IT SO THAT BETWEEN THE DEAD COP AND NOW THIS...
...WE'VE GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO TORCH THE CHEETAH.
I HOPE THIS IS A LESSON TO YOU -- AND TO ALL OF YOU WHO EVEN THINK ABOUT GOING IN WITH THESE FREAKS.
TORCH THE CHEETAH!
WHOA, SOFIA, YOUR OWN FATHER DID BUSINESS WITH THE SAME --
YOU LEAVE MY FATHER OUT OF THIS.

SOFIA. SOFIA! IT'S CHRISTMAS EVE!
WE DO A LITTLE EGGNOG, EXCHANGE SOME GIFTS --
I MEANT NO DISRESPECT TO YOUR FATHER --

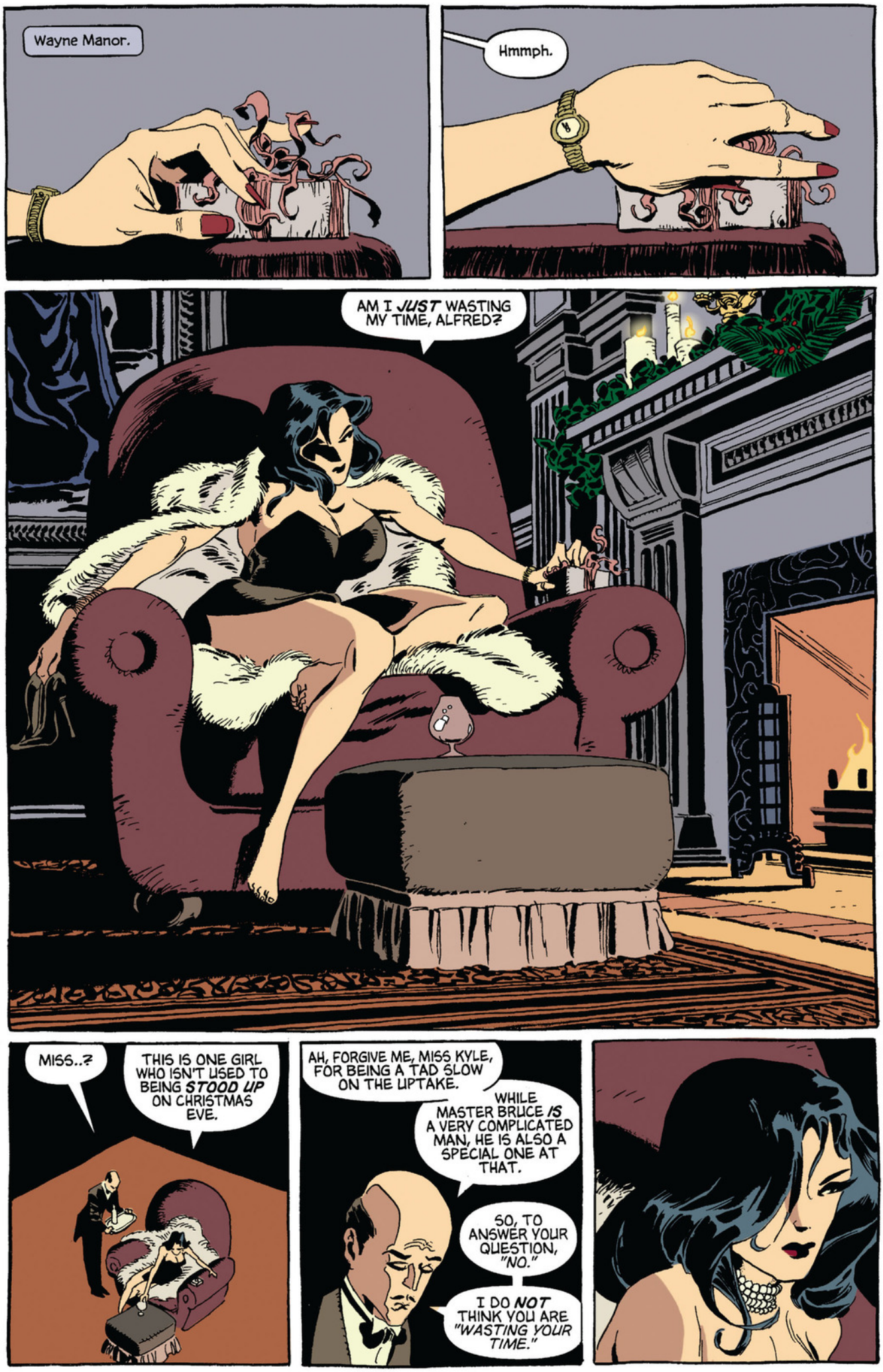
I... YOU'RE RIGHT, UMBERTO. IT *IS* CHRISTMAS.
AND NOT KNOWING THAT POPPA IS RESTING IN HIS *GRAVE...*
IT'S VERY DIFFICULT...

LOOK, SOFIA, FUHGEDDABOUDIT. UMBERTO AND I, WE WAS THINKIN' -- AND THIS IS A JOKE, REALLY -- *HA-HA* --
HEY, PINO -- MAYBE *NOW'S* NOT THE BEST TIME --
NAW, C'MON, JUS' WE WAS THINKIN' HOW YOUR BROTHER ALBERTO FAKED HIS OWN DEATH AND ALL --
-- HOW WOULDN'T IT BE MESSED UP IF *YOUR FATHER* WAS STILL ALIVE AND -- *HA-HA-HA--?*

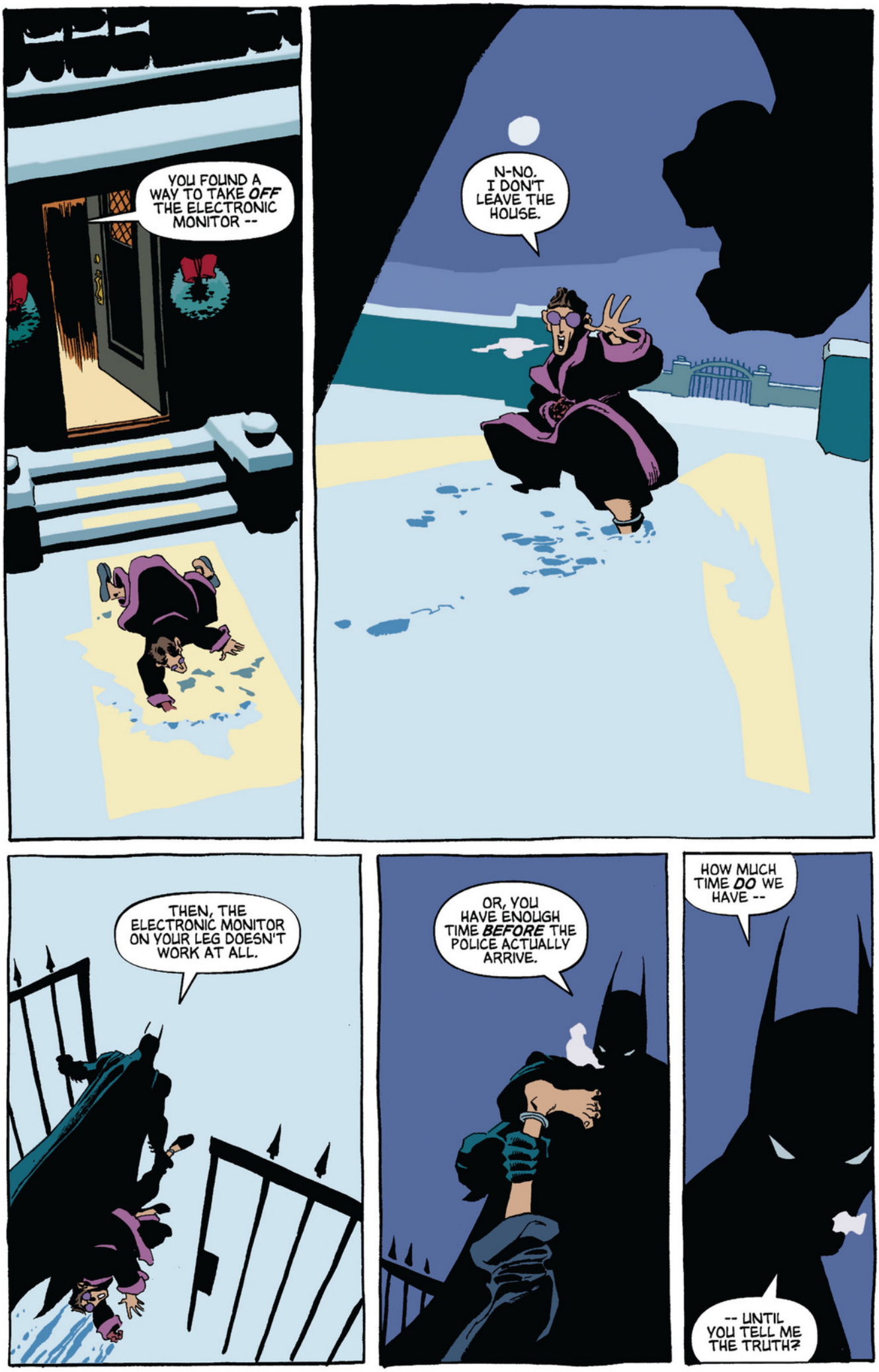
HA-HA, I GET IT --!

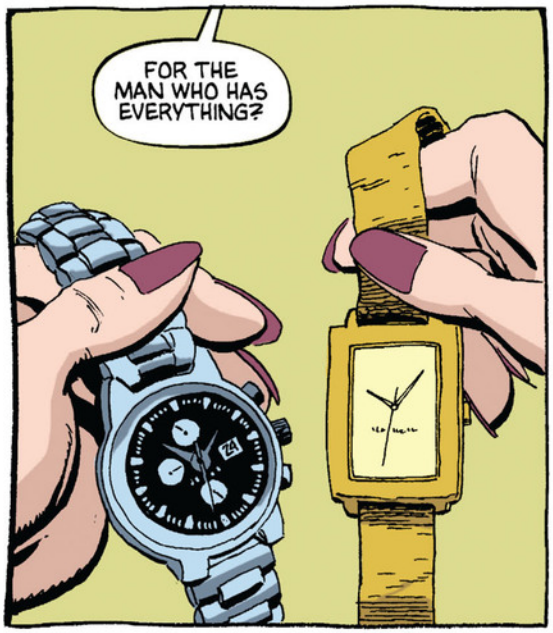


YOU CRAZY BITCH -- YOU SHOT ME!
YOU WANTED TO EXCHANGE GIFTS?
THERE. YOU GOT MINE.
NOW, YOU WANNA KNOW WHAT YOU CAN GET ME?
TWO MONTHS.
TWO MONTHS I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU TO MAKE GOOD ON YOUR PROMISE TO KILL HARVEY DENT --
-- AND YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE HE IS!
YOU TWO FIND DENT AND I'LL GUARANTEE YOU'LL FIND MY FATHER'S BODY OR WHAT'S LEFT OF HIM.
AND UNTIL THEN, THERE'S NOT GOING TO BE ANY PEACE BETWEEN THE MARONI FAMILY --
-- AND THE FALCONES!


Wayne Manor.
Hmmph.
AM I JUST WASTING MY TIME, ALFRED?
MISS..?
THIS IS ONE GIRL WHO ISN'T USED TO BEING STOOD UP ON CHRISTMAS EVE.
AH, FORGIVE ME, MISS KYLE, FOR BEING A TAD SLOW ON THE UPTAKE.
WHILE MASTER BRUCE IS A VERY COMPLICATED MAN, HE IS ALSO A SPECIAL ONE AT THAT.
SO, TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, "NO."
I DO NOT THINK YOU ARE "WASTING YOUR TIME."

The Falcone Estate. Current residence of Alberto Falcone.
Gotham City has a cop killer on the loose who has used Halloween, Thanksgiving and now Christmas to mark the calendar.
I have dealt with a "holiday killer" before.
I'M LOOKING FOR A MURDERER.
HIS KILLINGS FOLLOW A PATTERN.
JUST LIKE YOURS DID.
"HOLIDAY."


YOU FOUND A WAY TO TAKE *OFF* THE ELECTRONIC MONITOR --
N-NO. I DON'T LEAVE THE HOUSE.
THEN, THE ELECTRONIC MONITOR ON YOUR LEG DOESN'T WORK AT ALL.
OR, YOU HAVE ENOUGH TIME *BEFORE* THE POLICE ACTUALLY ARRIVE.
HOW MUCH TIME *DO* WE HAVE --
-- UNTIL YOU TELL ME THE TRUTH?


FOR THE MAN WHO HAS EVERYTHING?

JIM! I NEVER FIGURED YOU FOR A LAST-MINUTE SHOPPER.
AH, WELL, WITH ALL THAT'S GOING ON, I'M JUST GLAD TO GET *ANY* SHOPPING DONE AT ALL.
THOSE FOR SOMEONE SPECIAL?

WHICH WOULD YOU PICK? AS A MAN, I MEAN..?
I... I DON'T KNOW, PORTER. I'D PROBABLY GET BOTH AND LET *HIM* DECIDE.

HMPH. YOU CALLED ME *"PORTER"*, JIM.
HAVEN'T HAD ANYONE DO THAT SINCE I WAS IN COLLEGE.
REALLY, I... UM...
OH, NO.
PROBLEM?

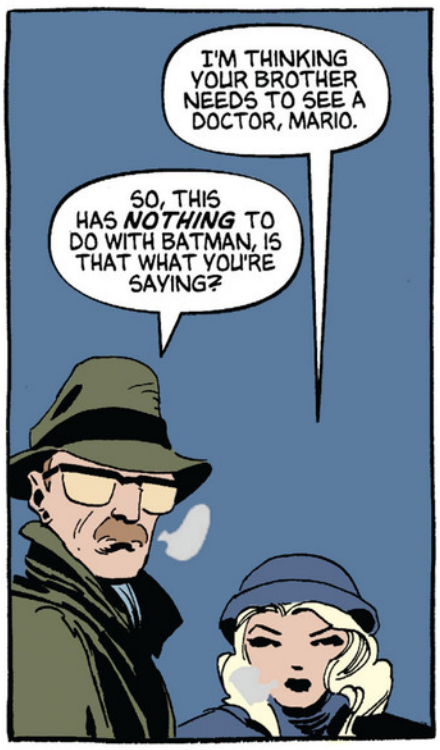
THE STATION HOUSE. IN CASE OF EMERGENCY.
YOU MIGHT WANT TO RIDE ALONG WITH ME...

THE WHOLE... INCIDENT IS VERY DISTURBING.
WE'D LIKE TO SEE YOUR BROTHER, MR. FALCONE.

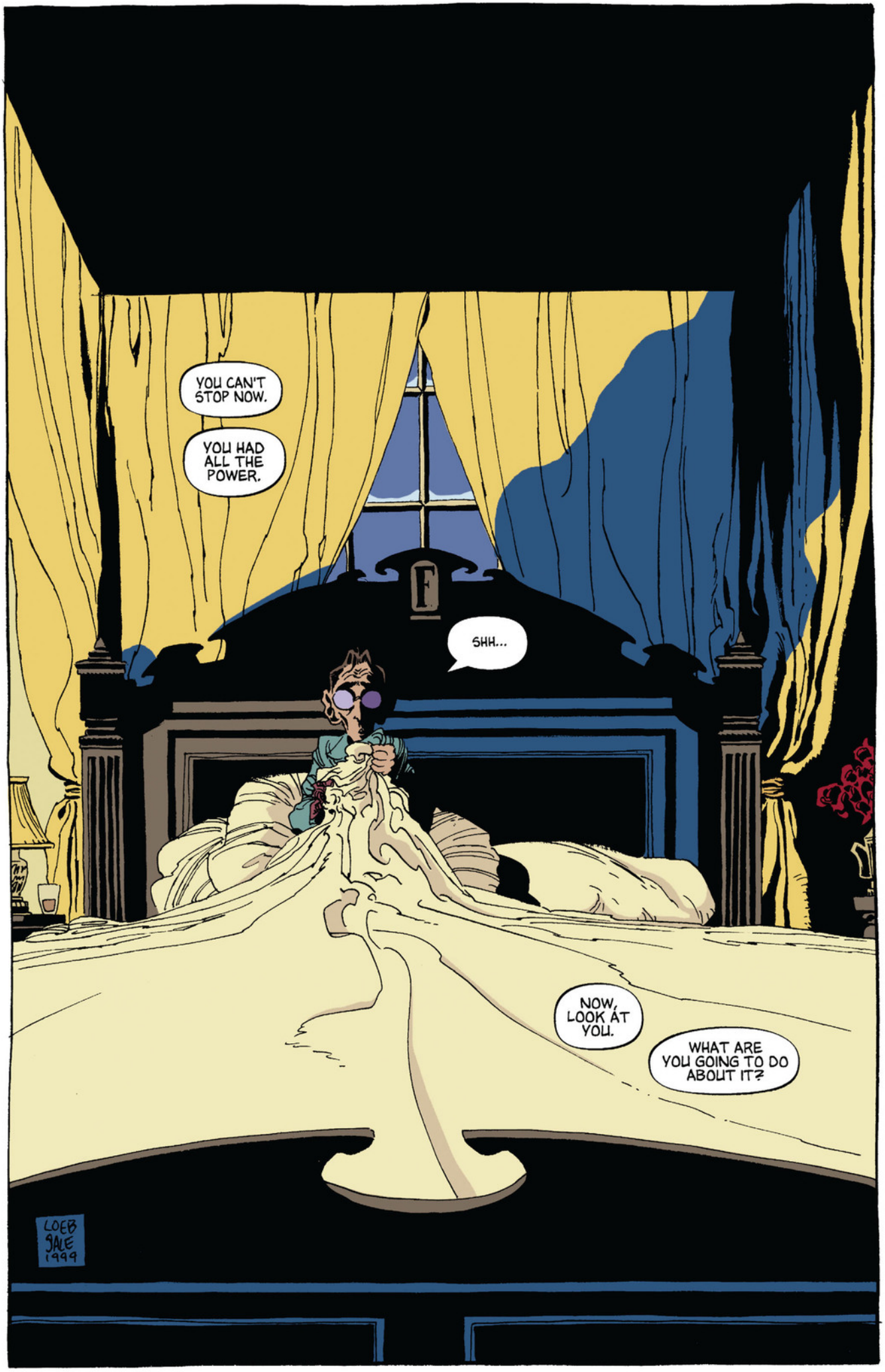
I'D RATHER YOU DIDN'T.
I JUST GOT HIM TO BED AND GIVEN HIM SOMETHING TO HELP HIM SLEEP.
AND... HE'S CLAIMING ***BATMAN*** CAME HERE AND ATTACKED HIM?
I'M AFRAID SO. SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE... *"HANG MAN"* KILLINGS...
YOU'RE TAKING THIS PRETTY LIGHTLY.

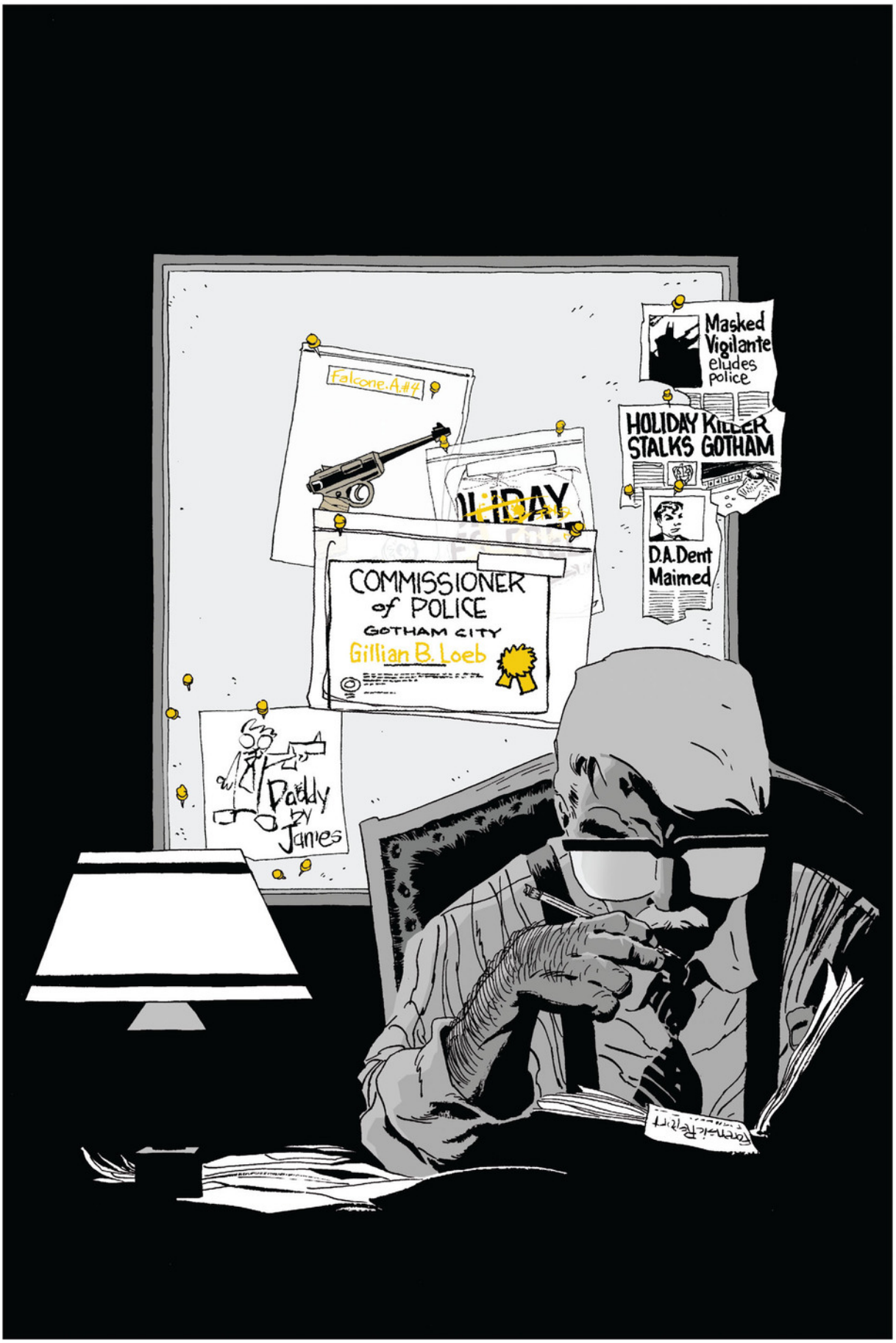
I'M NOT SURE ***WHAT*** TO BELIEVE.
AS MY BROTHER'S GUARDIAN, I'M CONCERNED, OF COURSE --
-- BUT, HE TOLD ME --
HOW SHOULD I SAY THIS --?
TRY ***HONESTLY.*** THAT'S ALWAYS A GOOD START.
JIM...

YES, WELL, MY BROTHER TOLD ME HE'S BEEN ***HEARING VOICES*** IN THE HOUSE.
VOICES..?
HE CLAIMS THE HOUSE IS... ***HAUNTED*** BY MY LATE FATHER.


I'M THINKING YOUR BROTHER NEEDS TO SEE A DOCTOR, MARIO.
SO, THIS HAS ***NOTHING*** TO DO WITH BATMAN, IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?

I'M SAYING I FIND THE ENTIRE INCIDENT DISTURBING AND IT BEARS INVESTIGATION.
BUT... WHAT I ***DO*** KNOW IS, IF BATMAN WAS INVOLVED IN ***ANY*** WAY --
-- I CAN'T BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR HOW ***MY SISTER SOFIA*** WILL REACT...


YOU CAN'T STOP NOW.
YOU HAD ALL THE POWER.
SHH...
NOW, LOOK AT YOU.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?
LOEB SALE 1999


Falcone.A.#4
Masked Vigilante eludes police
HOLIDAY KILLER STALKS GOTHAM
D.A. Dent Maimed
COMMISSIONER of POLICE
GOTHAM CITY
Gillian B. Loeb
Daddy by James